

1. (cancelled) A checkout system comprising:
  - a computer for completing sale of an item;
  - a barcode reader mounted in a checkout counter and coupled to the computer for reading a barcode label on the item as it is passed over the barcode reader; and
  - a security system mounted separately from and adjacent to the barcode reader in the checkout counter and coupled to the computer and activated by the barcode reader following reading of the barcode label including
    - a field generator for deactivating a security label on the item; and
    - a sensor for sensing placement of the item within range of the field generator;

wherein the security system initiates display of a message following the reading of the barcode label instructing an operator to place the item over the field generator and within a deactivation range of the field generator until the sensor senses the placement.
2. (cancelled) The checkout system as recited in claim 1, wherein the sensor is operational only during self-service checkout operation.

3. (previously amended) A checkout system convertible between assisted-service and self-service checkout operation comprising:

a computer for completing sale of an item;

a barcode reader mounted in a checkout counter and coupled to the computer for reading a barcode label on the item as it is passed over the barcode reader; and

a security system mounted separately from and adjacent to the barcode reader in the checkout counter and coupled to the computer and activated by the barcode reader following reading of the barcode label including

a field generator for deactivating a security label on the item; and

a pop-up housing on an assisted-service side of the checkout counter adjacent the field generator and vertically moveable between a raised position for self-service checkout operation and a recessed position for assisted-service checkout operation;

wherein the pop-up housing contains a sensor facing a customer side of the checkout counter for sensing placement of the item within a deactivation range of the field generator during self-service checkout operation; and

wherein the security system initiates display of a message following the reading of the barcode label instructing a self-service customer to place the item over

the field generator and within the deactivation range of the field generator until the sensor senses the placement during self-service checkout operation.

4. (previously amended) A product security system comprising:

a field generator mounted in a checkout counter for deactivating a security label on an item for sale; and

a pop-up housing mounted in the checkout counter opposite a customer side of the field generator and adjacent an assisted-service side of the field generator and moveable between a raised position for self-service checkout operation and a recessed position for assisted-service checkout operation;

wherein the pop-up housing contains a sensor facing the customer side for sensing placement of the item within a deactivation range of the field generator following reading of barcode label during self-service checkout operation; and

wherein the security system initiates display of a message following reading of a barcode label on the item instructing a self-service customer to place the item over the field generator and within the deactivation range of the field generator until the sensor senses the placement during self-service checkout operation.

5. (previously amended) A transaction method comprising the steps of:

reading a barcode label on an item for sale by a barcode reader mounted in a checkout counter during movement of the item over the barcode reader;

obtaining barcode information from the barcode reader by a computer;

activating a field generator mounted separately from and adjacent to the barcode reader in the checkout counter for deactivating a security label on the item by the computer;

determining whether the item comes within a deactivation range of the field generator by the computer; and

if the item does not come within the deactivation range, initiating display of a message instructing an operator to place the item over the field generator and within the deactivation range of the field generator.

6. (previously amended) A transaction method comprising the steps of:

positioning a pop-up sensor associated with a field generator, which is mounted separately from and adjacent to a barcode reader in a checkout counter, in a raised position facing a customer side of the checkout counter to identify

an item for sale within a deactivation range of the field generator during a self-service checkout transaction;

reading a barcode label on the item by the barcode reader as the item passes over the barcode reader;

obtaining barcode information from the barcode reader by a computer;

activating the field generator to deactivate a security label on the item by the computer;

determining from the sensor whether the item comes within the deactivation range of the field generator by the computer; and

if the item does not come within the deactivation range, initiating display of a message instructing an operator to place the item over the field generator and within the deactivation range of the field generator.

7. (cancelled) A checkout system comprising:

a checkout counter;

a computer with the checkout counter for completing sale of an item;

a barcode reader mounted in the checkout counter and coupled to the computer for reading a barcode label on the item as it is passed over the barcode reader; and

a security system mounted separately from and adjacent to the barcode reader in the checkout counter and coupled to

the computer and activated by the barcode reader following reading of the barcode label including

a field generator for deactivating a security label on the item; and

a sensor for sensing placement of the item within range of the field generator;

wherein the security system initiates display of a message following the reading of the barcode label instructing an operator to place the item over the field generator and within a deactivation range of the field generator until the sensor senses the placement.

8. (previously amended) A checkout system convertible between assisted-service and self-service checkout operation comprising:

a checkout counter having a customer side and an assisted-service side;

a computer with the checkout counter for completing sale of an item;

a barcode reader mounted in the checkout counter and coupled to the computer for reading a barcode label on the item as it is passed over the barcode reader; and

a security system mounted separately from and adjacent to the barcode reader and coupled to the computer and

activated by the barcode reader following reading of the barcode label including

a field generator for deactivating a security label on the item; and

a pop-up housing on the assisted-service side of the checkout counter adjacent the field generator and vertically moveable between a raised position for self-service checkout operation and a recessed position for assisted-service checkout operation;

wherein the pop-up housing contains a sensor facing the customer side of the checkout counter for sensing placement of the item within a deactivation range of the field generator during self-service checkout operation; and

wherein the security system initiates display of a message following the reading of the barcode label instructing a self-service customer to place the item over the field generator and within the deactivation range of the field generator until the sensor senses the placement during self-service checkout operation.